

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland REPORT

SUBJECT Reaction to Criticism of the Polish Regime as Expressed in a Poem DATE DISTR. 19 December 1955 25X1

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DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. A poem, entitled Poem for Adults (Poemat dla Doroslych) by Adam Wazyk, created a sensation in Polish literary circles when it appeared on the front page of the 21 August 1955 literary weekly, Nowa Kultura. Written in an extremely pessimistic manner, the poem complained bitterly of the present chaotic state of affairs throughout Poland. 25X1
2. Publication of this poem provoked immediate and severe criticism in the entire Polish press, and the question of responsibility was raised. The PZPR (United Polish Workers Party) Central Committee conducted an investigation of the matter, and Hofman (fnu),<sup>1</sup> Chief Editor of Nowa Kultura, was severely reprimanded for his lack of vigilance in publishing the poem. Hofman, however, disclaimed all responsibility in the matter, stating that he had been away on a holiday at the time. He then attempted to place the blame on his assistant editor, Przemski (fnu).<sup>2</sup> Przemski insisted, however, that Hofman, prior to taking leave, had instructed him to publish the poem on the front page of the next issue of Nowa Kultura. The Board of Censors, in turn, absolved itself of all responsibility on the grounds that Hofman's approval of the poem should constitute sufficient guarantee of its suitability for publication.
3. The investigation continued and Adam Wazyk was summoned to a private meeting with Jakob Berman. Following this meeting, Kowalewski (fnu),<sup>3</sup> Director of the Press Section of the Central Committee, held a conference with members of the Nowa Kultura staff and stated that in accordance with instructions from Berman, Wazyk was to be severely censured but not completely ruined.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

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4. As a further measure, the Central Committee then commissioned Wladyslaw Broniewski, Party poet and occasional spokesman for the regime, to compose a poem in answer to Wazyk.

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Comments:

1. Probably Pawel Hofman who, in 1953, was Chief of the Cultural Department of the PZPR Central Committee.
2. Probably Leon Przemski, Secretary of the Basic Party Organization in the Polish Writers Union.
3. Probably Jerzy Kowalewski, listed in late 1953 as Vice Director of the Press Section

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- 2 -

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